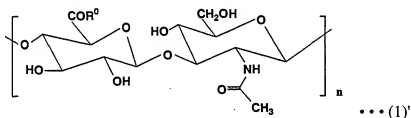


# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

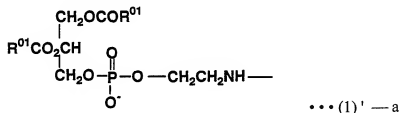
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1)':



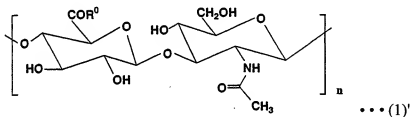
wherein  $R^0$  is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



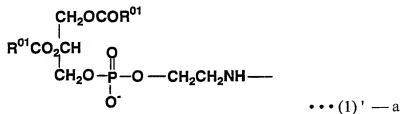
wherein  $R^{01}$  is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and  $n$  is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 50% of  $R^0$  is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a, said hyaluronic acid compound showing a complex elastic modulus of more than 200 Pa with its hydrogel having a concentration of 3 wt%.

2. (original): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein  $n$  is 300 to 30,000.

3. (previously presented): The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein two  $R^{01}CO$ -s in the formula (1)'-a are both oleoyl groups.
4. (original): A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.
5. (original): A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.
6. (previously presented): A joint treating material comprising a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1)':



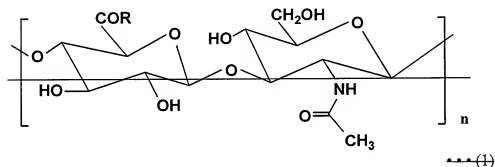
wherein  $R^0$  is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



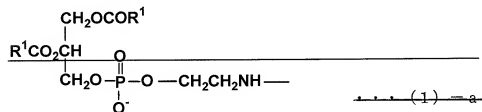
wherein  $R^{01}$  is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and  $n$  is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 50% of  $R^0$  is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a, said hyaluronic acid compound showing a complex elastic modulus of more than 200 Pa with its hydrogel having a concentration of 3 wt%.

7. (previously presented): The joint treating material according to claim 6, wherein  $R^1$  is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 14 to 20 carbon atoms and n is an integer of 1,000 to 10,000.

8. (currently amended): A method of using a hyaluronic acid compound comprising inserting a joint treating material prepared from a hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1); (1)';

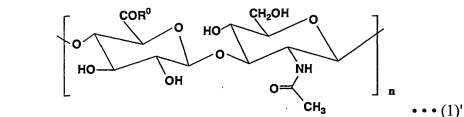


wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,

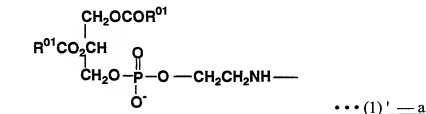


wherein  $R^1$  is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms;

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a;



wherein  $R^0$  is a group represented by the following formula (1)'-a, -OH or -ONa,



wherein  $R^{01}$  is an alkenyl group having 10 to 28 carbon atoms, and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 50% of  $R^0$  is the group represented by the above formula (1)'-a, said hyaluronic acid compound showing a complex elastic modulus of more than 200 Pa with its hydrogel having a concentration of 3 wt%.

into the joint of a patient.

9. (previously presented): The molded form of claim 5, wherein the molded form is a sponge, nonwoven cloth or film.